

Ouroboros: Myatt, Vindex, And A Return To Physis



With the publication of his translations of and commentaries on eight tractates of the Corpus Hermeticum in 2017 {1} followed later in the same year by his two monographs on Greco-Roman paganism {2} it seems to me that David Myatt's antinomian life has come full circle.

In his 1984 text *Vindex - Destiny of the West* {3} he wrote that

"Adolf Hitler is as central to Imperium as Caesar was to the Roman Empire, and while the founders of the Imperium may not call themselves National Socialists or use as their symbol the swastika flag, they will nevertheless be the heirs of National Socialism. In this bond lies the key to the creation of Imperium [...]"

To pretend that National Socialism or Adolf Hitler are not important for the West is absurd: National Socialism (or perhaps more correctly, Hitlerism) cannot be ignored and any movement, political or which has as its aim the creation of a Faustian Imperium, will never succeed as long as it ignores the importance of this philosophy for the sake of temporary and, finally, illusory gains."

He goes on to explain that "Philosophically, National Socialism represents the revaluation wished for by Nietzsche – a return to Nature (the *physis* of the Greeks) as an unfolding in the sense of the pre-Socratics [...] Such a returning is a return to the dynamic paganism that pre-dated Christianity."

To pretend that National Socialism or Adolf Hitler is not important for the West is absurd: National Socialism (or perhaps more correctly, Hitlerism) cannot be ignored and any movement, political or otherwise, which has as its aim the creation of a Faustian Imperium, will never succeed as long as it ignores the importance of this philosophy for the sake of temporary and, finally, illusory gains.

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Philosophically, National Socialism represents the revaluation wished for by Nietzsche—a return to Nature (the *'physis* of the Greeks) as an unfolding in the sense of the pre-Socratics. Heidegger's philosophy is another expression of this, and it is no coincidence that Heidegger never renounced his National Socialist affiliations, despite the many attempts to coerce him.

Such a returning is a return to the dynamic paganism that pre-dated Christianity (which became, under Christianity, the old Germanic chivalry¹⁰⁸). But National Socialism is much more than a philosophy, a way of thought: It is a way of life, concerned with practical realities. It recognizes the harmony that exists through a unity of man with Nature and which is exemplified in one way with the yeomen or small-holders who earn their living from the land and who are thus attuned to the rhythms of rural life and who are aware of natural change and struggle. National Socialism is founded upon the basic realization that man is part of, and subject to, the laws and processes of Nature. He is not above it, although he can, providing he works with these laws, change it to a certain extent. Perhaps the most fundamental example of this, for man, is race: the recognition of not only differences and differing aptitudes between races[†] but also of individuals in each race. There is in National Socialism a desire to preserve identity, to foster quality over and above quantity, as well as encourage,

For what Myatt has done in those 2017 publications and in his other translations of classical works (from Aeschylus to the Pre-Socratics) is to enable us

"to appreciate and understand the classical, pagan, ethos and thence the ethos of the West itself." {4}{5}{6}

In other words, Myatt has explained in his translations the philosophical basis of the pagan "returning" that National-Socialism represented politically and otherwise.

Importantly, in his *Classical Paganism And The Christian Ethos* he wrote that

"the quintessence of such a weltanschauung, of the paganus ethos, is that ethics are presenced in and by particular living individuals, not in some written text whether philosophical or otherwise, not by some proposed schemata, and not in some revelation from some deity."

Which brings us to two things. First, Myatt's admiration of modern warriors (and National-Socialists) such as Waffen-SS General Leon Degrelle and Otto Ernst Remer. Of Remer he wrote in his 2013 autobiography *Myngath* {7} that "I admired his honour and his loyalty and his commitment to the duty he had sworn an oath to do. Here, I felt, was a modern-day Greek hero."

Second, Myatt's life-long commitment to the principle, the ethic, of personal honour, stating in 1998 that "the only law I believe in and strive to uphold is the law of personal honour." {8} Which concept of personal honour also runs through his 1998 interview with a then official representative of an anti-fascist organization, with Myatt "on his word of honour" saying in that interview that he is not Anton Long and that he has never been in any practical way involved with the Occult group the Order of Nine Angles. {9}

That the then official representative of an anti-fascist organization refused to believe Myatt's denials and, despite having nothing probative to support such allegations - continued to repeat his allegations, led Myatt to challenge him to a duel with deadly weapons which challenge of course the ideologically driven anti-fascist declined, leading Myatt to write:

"Given that I have challenged two journalists, according to the law of personal honour, to a duel with deadly weapons for making such malicious allegations, and given that they did not have the honour to accept this challenge or issue an apology in lieu of fighting a duel, I consider my honour vindicated." {8}

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In what I personally regard as one of Myatt's most important works, he writes in his *Classical Paganism And The Christian Ethos*, that

"The paganus weltanschauung, ancestral to the lands of the West, that has emerged is one which, shorn of technical, Greek, and metaphysical terms, many may find familiar or already be intuitively aware of. For it is a weltanschauung of we human beings having a connexion to other living beings, a connexion to

the cosmos beyond, and a connexion to the source of our existence, the source of the cosmos, and the source - the origin, the genesis - of all living beings. Which source we cannot correctly describe in words, by any denotata, or define as some male 'god', or even as a collection of deities whether male or female, but which we can apprehend through the emanations of Being: through what is living, what is born, what unfolds in a natural manner, what is ordered and harmonious, what changes, and what physically - in its own species of Time - dies [...]

Such a developed paganus weltanschauung - in its ethos and its ontology, ethics, and epistemology, and thus with its virtues of personal honour and empathy combined with a respect for the numinous - is quite different from Christianity and other revealed religions, and certainly does, in its noble simplicity and practicality, seem to be more human in physis, more balanced, and could well be more productive of a healthy personal ψυχή, than Christianity and other revealed religions.

Such a modern paganus weltanschauung may also be a means to reconnect those in the lands of the West, and those in Western émigré lands and former colonies of the West, with their ancestral ethos, for them to thus become, or return to being, a living, dwelling, part - a connexion between the past and the future - of what is still a living, and evolving, culture. Perhaps the future of that culture depends on whether sufficient individuals can live by the high personal standards of such a modern paganus weltanschauung."

That is, Myatt seems to me to be not only re-expressing what he wrote about Christianity, paganism, and physis, in his much earlier *Vindex - Destiny Of The West* but also presenting us with the philosophical foundations of "a return to the dynamic paganism that pre-dated Christianity."

A dynamic and a new paganism that has the ethic of personal honour at its heart and which ethics are thus "presenced in and by particular living individuals, not in some written text whether philosophical or otherwise, not by some proposed schemata, and not in some revelation from some deity."

Ethics presenced in individuals such as Waffen-SS General Leon Degrelle and Otto Ernst Remer. Which leads us back, in my view, to what Myatt wrote in *Vindex- Destiny Of the West*,

"that National Socialism - what it was, not what propaganda has made it appear [to be] - was an expression of Faustian resurgence and nothing is more indicative of the influence of the Magian ethos [...] than the fact that National Socialist Germany perished after only twelve years of existence because of a war that neither Hitler nor the German people wanted. This war resulted in the enslavement of half of Europe to Communism, destroyed the British Empire, and left the world divided between the materialism of

America and the materialism of Soviet Russia. 1945 was a turning point for our civilization; the old values which created the West and which inspired the National Socialist movement began to disappear from the hearts and minds of Europeans."

Rachael Stirling
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{1} *Corpus Hermeticum: Eight Tractates*, ISBN 978-1976452369. Available as a gratis pdf document at <https://davidmyatt.files.wordpress.com/2018/03/eight-tractates-v2-print.pdf>

{2} *Classical Paganism And The Christian Ethos*, ISBN 978-1979599023, and *Tu Es Diaboli Ianua*, ISBN 978-1982010935. Both available as gratis pdf documents at (i) <https://davidmyatt.files.wordpress.com/2018/03/tua-es-diaboli-ianua.pdf> and (ii) <https://davidmyatt.files.wordpress.com/2018/03/classical-paganism-v2-print.pdf>

{3} A facsimile of the 1984 published text is available at <https://archive.org/details/myatt-vindex>

{4} The quotation is from *Re-discovering Western Paganism, in Western Paganism And Hermeticism: Myatt And The Renaissance of Western Culture*, available at https://archive.org/details/tags_20210805

{5} In regard to the Pre-Socratics, see <https://davidmyatt.files.wordpress.com/2021/04/pre-socratic-and-aristotle.pdf>

{6} In regard to Physis see <https://davidmyatt.wordpress.com/aristotle-metaphysics-1015a/>

{7} <https://davidmyatt.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/david-myatt-myingath.pdf>

{8} The statement is included in his 20 page polemic *A Matter Of Honour* published in 2012, and available at <https://davidmyatt.files.wordpress.com/2018/08/a-matter-of-honour.pdf>

{9} The interview is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RZZeuPoplu4>

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